

An Eye-Opening Issue

Vikings Saga

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Northwest High School
Celebrating 50 Years
Grand Island, Nebraska
November 2013
Issue 3

Charity: You are never too young to help a person



Jennifer Clement

STAFF WRITER

What is charity? Charity is when one helps others by giving donations of money, goods, or services to help those in need.

Charities are organizations around the world whose mission is to help those in need. They give money, shelter, food, and important items to the homeless or less fortunate people of the world.

There are many charities in Grand Island. They include Salvation Army, Project Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, Hope Harbor, and the Crisis Center. Those are

the most well known. They are always taking in volunteers to help them.

Teenagers use the excuse of, "I'm too busy," or "I'm too young." Teens think that they won't make much of a difference because of their age. You are never too young to make a difference.

Why do people pay more attention to charities during the holidays and not the other days of the year? During the Christmas and Thanksgiving seasons, people donate a lot of money, food, clothing, and other goods to people in need. But during the rest of the year, much fewer items are donated.

In my opinion, I wish people would pay more attention and take more

action during the rest of the year. People are not homeless and starving only on the holidays. It's everyday. During the holidays, do think of others, but don't forget to think of them during the rest of the year.

Next time you look in your closet and find that shirt that went out of style last month, don't just get rid of it, donate it. People in need don't care if it's in style.

My tip to you is to rethink some of the choices you have made in your life. Think of others everyday, not just on the holidays. Try to help make a difference in someone else's life. In the end, we are all the same. Remember, you are not too young to help a person. Start now.

Viking Saga

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iPad, Chromebook, or neither?



"Well, if you actually use [the iPads] right, they have a lot of apps you can use for studying."
Alexis Reynolds
Sophomore

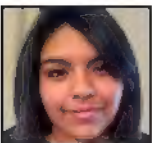


"I think we should go to Chromebooks. It would be easier to type on and it is less distracting."
Krystal Lehn
Junior



"Well personally, if I had my way, we would go back to pen and paper...Dropping all electronic educational devices seems like a better idea."
Dani Johnson
Junior

iPads vs Chromebook "battle it out" for staffer



Bibiana Luevano
STAFF WRITER

Lightweight or bulky? Fast or slow? Complicated or easy? The list is endless when comparing two familiar technological devices that exist in today's society. So let me introduce you to today's non-violent version of "Techno Smack Down Mania!" Our opponents include the very well known iPad, along with the ever-growing popular Chromebook.

Speculation has littered the halls of Northwest High School, and before this may continue, this writer will satisfy your thirst for knowledge. It has been confirmed that the Chromebook may replace the iPad within the next year. Seeing as how the contract for the iPad lease is coming to an end, it is time for the school board to take that step in making the decision of whether or not

to maintain possession of the iPads or dump them and start anew with the Chromebook.

Now let's move on towards the good stuff. What is it that makes one better than the other? Well, in my opinion, both have pros and cons. Whether it's through the style or even the software that the item provides. The Chromebook has been dubbed as the best in the line of many miniaturized laptops. It has the highest screen resolution and is sold at an affordable price compared to other brands.

It also has been said that the Chromebook is not as slow as other similar laptops, since they don't have the standard Windows or Mac software. It is instead installed with the Google Chrome OS.

These are good factors, but not enough to outweigh the cons. The Chromebook is less portable than the iPad. It has too

many features that require internet connection, whereas the iPad has some apps that can be used whenever you wish.

The Chromebook may be a well-devised piece of technology, yet it doesn't seem to fit the required standards that we need for school use. The iPad, on the other hand, does have one major downside for me. Keyboarding is a factor of my life that I deem important and a daily requirement.

Whether I'm out traveling or relaxing during my free time, you can always find me tapping away at the iPad. I find that I am not too fond of the touch-screen keyboard equipped on the iPad. I much prefer an actual keyboard which raises a plus for the Chromebook. Now slap together a keyboard along with an iPad, and Apple wins my vote hands down. So it's time to tap out, Chromebook, because Apple has just tackled you down to the ground.

Northwest custodian is everyone's "Grandpa"

Adrian Arroyo

STAFF WRITER

Most students know Mike Ewoldt as the janitor that roams the halls everyday cleaning every dirty spot he sees. But he's not any ordinary janitor, he is simply "grandpa" to the whole student body. Grandpa started his job at Northwest High School in 2008 and has been here ever since.

The nickname "grandpa" started on an ordinary school day.

"It was easier for people to remember, because everyone has a grandpa," Grandpa stated. Freshmen come to the school confused about the fact that not just one student, but every student calls him grandpa.

"I knew him when he worked at Trinity, and he has been the same since I can remember! He has a fun jokingly personality!" said senior Julie Bruns.

Grandpa will rarely greet students with a "hi" or a "hello"; what they hear instead is a "Yo" or a "Sup".

"He's fun and likes to interact with students, that's why I think he uses our generations language more, to make it easier to communicate!" said junior Kenzie Conrad.

Most people would think that being a janitor is a dirty job. Not everyone wants to wake up to go to a job where someone might have to clean a students throw up, or having to clean people's messes in a bathroom. But Grandpa

doesn't come for that,

"I love the kids and the staff members that come with the job!" He said.

He arrives at 2:30 in the afternoon and leaves at 11:00 at night, making sure the school is put together for the next morning. When someone's younger the main jobs that come to mind are an Astronaut, a Pop Star, or a famous Movie Actress. Grandpa is something special to our school, He's our grandpa. He might not have you sit on his lap and read you a story, but he has that warm hearted personality that he's willing to share with everyone, even for the people who might not have a grandpa anymore. He's someone that our school can all count on.

"I just wanted to be me, nothing but

myself. I love making people happy and that's that."



Known by most students as "Grandpa," custodian Mike Ewoldt brings smiles to both students and staff.

PHOTO BY TAYLOR CALLAHAN

History of the Month

The United States has gone through several questionable periods of history, some of which are widely known today, and some that aren't as known. Here is a look at three shocking events in America's history.

Native Americans: After settlers began populating the East Coast, the government began pushing Native Americans further and further west, colliding different tribes and regions. Eventually white settlers began moving west, pushing Native Americans to reservations. Beginning in the 1880s, young Native Americans were torn from their homes and taken to "white" boarding schools where they learned how to sew, cook, and clean.

Slavery/Civil Rights: Slaves were brought to America as early as 1619. This began a slave trade, known as triangular trade, between Africa, America, and Europe. Even after triangular trade was outlawed, slavery continued in the United States, finally being resolved after the Civil War in 1864. Even after slavery was outlawed, African American rights were far from fair or equal. For 100 years they suffered from discrimination in schools, restaurants, jobs, and water fountains. After a century of fighting, speaking out, and being abused, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbid discrimination of any kind in America. It was a landmark decision by the US Supreme Court that changed life for millions of American citizens.

Japanese during WWII: as President Roosevelt declared on December 7, 1941, it was a day that would "forever live in infamy". This was the day that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, officially bringing the United States into the war. This attack prompted fear throughout the United States, and the Japanese Americans living in the US were instantly regarded to with fear and anger. FDR signed order 9066 in February of 1942, an order that required all Japanese Americans to move into an internment camp for the duration of the war. Most camps were located in deserts of the Southwest United States. The houses were shared by multiple families, and the many bathroom didn't have stalls or doors.

Check out these movies to see examples of these events:

The Butler (2013): this is the story of a black butler in the White House during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

The Help (2011): told from several different points of view, this is a story of the 1950's and the challenges all women faced.

American Pastime (2007): shows life in a Japanese Internment Camp during WWII.

Laura Springer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mock accident brings awareness

Laura Springer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On October 24, students driving to school en-route Highway 2 and North Road passed a two car accident in the ditch involving two Northwest students. Rumor spread around the school about what had happened and who was involved. Once word spread that one of the students was junior Megan Billington, panic set in. Billington is one of the top Cross Country runners in the state, and October 24 happened to be the day before the State Meet. Athletic Director Rocky Almond was among those panicked.

"I've turned that corner every day and have seen cars dodge that intersection and held my breath for seven years--I was mortified when I realized it was two Northwest students, Almond said."

Almond was quickly relieved when he was reminded it was a mock accident.

"I had forgotten it was going on, so it made sense. It was set up perfectly and showed everyone that no one wants to go through that for real"

Student Council had been planning this mock accident for almost a year. It all started in the summer of 2012 when State Farm asked to partner with representatives from different schools to plan their first annual "Celebrate My Drive" event. The point of this event was to make kids aware of consequences distracted driving can have and celebrate safe driving. Northwest had the highest attendance at the local event, so Student Council received a grant to continue promoting safe driving within the

school. Student Council researched different ideas, but they decided a mock accident and a grim reaper would best convey the message to other students. And they were right.

During the school day a grim reaper entered classrooms and pulled a total of 19 students from class. These students were given a letter explaining how they "died" and what was exactly going on. These students were then proclaimed "dead" for the remainder of the day; they weren't allowed to talk, text, or tweet until the assembly.

Although students were made aware that it was a mock accident before Student Council had intended and many were very upset, the assembly after lunch opened their eyes.

At the assembly Student Council explained to the student body why they chose to do a mock accident and grim reaper. Student Council wanted to make the student body aware of the consequences of distracted driving so that hopefully at least one person could be saved. The accident showed what a tragedy it would be if someone was actually severely injured, or killed, in a distracted driving accident. Students shared their concerns for Billington.

"It was really scary to think that something bad could have happened to Megan," said junior Val Rubio, one of Billington's closest friends.

Billington herself was surprised by the reactions of her peers. "I personally learned a lot from [the accident]. It was interesting to see how people reacted and to see that even people I'm not close with or barely know were affected."

National Awareness

A day in the life of a diabetic

Melissa Frias
STAFF WRITER

Diabetes is a topic that is often overlooked, but more shockingly, it is a topic that is often stereotyped. Diabetes consists of three main types: Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational.

Type 1 diabetes is something that one is born with, Type 2 is diagnosed due to poor diet choices, and Gestational diabetes occurs in women when they become pregnant and is "cured" after the baby is born. Diabetes is a very important topic that affects many people, including junior Ayza Bolanos.

"Type 1 diabetes is a life long disease where your pancreas no longer makes insulin and you have to take insulin injections daily to stay healthy," Bolanos said.

Bolanos was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes on February 18, 2008 when she was only 10 years old.

"I think the first thing I felt was probably relief because [everyone] finally knew I wasn't faking it," Bolanos said.

This change was monumental to Bolanos, but her diagnosis affected her family as well.

"My parents had to go to all the education classes with me and fill out all the paperwork. Our insurance is high now because of my diabetes," Bolanos said.

What is an average day like for Bolanos?

"I wake up and the first thing I do is check my blood sugar. Then I eat and count my carbs, take my metformin (a pill that increases sensitivity to insulin), use a

sliding scale to calculate how much humalog (a short acting insulin) I need, then I give myself a shot in either my arms, legs, stomach, or butt. Then, I take a shot of lantus (a long lasting insulin). Before lunch, I check [my blood sugar] again and [get a shot of] humalog after I eat. When I get home, I check again, eat a snack, and get insulin again. I do the same for dinner. Then before bed, I take my metformin again, another shot of lantus, check my blood sugar, and then go off to bed."

This is a routine that has become as normal as someone going through their daily class schedule for Bolanos. It is something Bolanos does without even having to think about it, but there are some drawbacks.

"It hurts sometimes and I have a lot of scar tissue...I just skip it sometimes," Bolanos said.

Bolanos knows first hand how diabetes can take a toll on physical and mental health. Bolanos has also experienced how most people stereotype and assume characteristics that are associated with diabetes.

"...you don't get diabetes from eating too much sugar...you don't get Type 1 from being obese; it's something that is [genetic]...people don't understand how bad the complications are either or how fast they hit. They don't get how it also takes a toll on your mental health. Most diabetics feel alone. They don't have any other people who go through what they go through, so if people try to make the effort to understand, comfort, or wait up for us while we give insulin, it truly means a lot."



Junior Ayza Bolanos and sophomore Rylee Bahe are all sr

Diabetes Glossary

hyperglycemia (HY-per-gly-SEE-mee-uh) n.

excessive blood glucose. Fasting hyperglycemia is blood glucose above a desirable level after a person has fasted for at least 8 hours. Postprandial hyperglycemia is blood glucose above a desirable level 1 to 2 hours after a person has eaten.

hypoglycemia (hy-po-gly-SEE-mee-uh) n.

a condition that occurs when one's blood glucose is lower than normal, usually less than 70 mg/dL. Signs include hunger, nervousness, shakiness, perspiration, dizziness or light-headedness, sleepiness, and confusion. If left untreated, hypoglycemia may lead to unconsciousness.

insulin (IN-suh-lin) n.

a hormone that helps the body use glucose for energy. The beta cells of the pancreas make insulin. When the body cannot make enough insulin, it is taken by injection or through use of an insulin pump.

glucose (GLOO-kohs) n.

one of the simplest forms of sugar.

Famous

Halle Berry - Actress

James Brown - Singer

Ralph Bunche - Nobel Peace Winner

Delta Burke - Actress, Miss USA

Johnny Cash - Musician

Dick Clark - Entertainer, TV Producer

Miles Davis - Jazz Musician

Diabetes Month



...iles as they explain their journey of living with diabetes.

Sophomore looks back on journey with diabetes

Angelica Carlini

ADS MANAGER

Seven times. That's the number of times sophomore Rylee Bahe has to prick her finger a day to check her blood sugar. Each time she hopes that the number on her pump will read somewhere between 80-150, which is considered healthy.

"Unfortunately mine runs high a lot," Bahe said. When this happens, she has to pump insulin into her body from her business-card sized pump that is attached to her hip. If it is too low, she drinks juice or eats a granola bar to raise it.

1 in 400 people are diagnosed with diabetes and there are two students at Northwest that have it. Bahe is one of them, and was diagnosed at age eleven.

"It was the end of my 5th grade year and for some reason I was always thirsty, but my mom thought it was just the summer heat getting to me. We didn't even consider that it might be diabetes."

Being thirsty all the time is just one of the symptoms of diabetes. Others include fatigue, increased restroom use, and hunger—even after eating more food than usual.

Bahe recalls sneaking water up to her room because her thirst was so extreme. She lost seven pounds before

being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

"It was definitely a big adjustment," Bahe said. Since she lived most of her life without diabetes, it was difficult for her to change her lifestyle so drastically, but she is determined to make it work. She participates in volleyball and track and she won't let having diabetes hold her back.

Bahe has also been to multiple Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) conventions in Omaha to meet with other kids with Type 1 diabetes and listen to inspirational speakers like former Husker football player Ben Cotton and his story of overcoming the struggles of living with diabetes.

Every August, Bahe and her family participate in the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes in downtown Omaha. It is an active way to get involved and help raise funds for Type 1 diabetes research.

Bahe manages to make the most out of her life despite living with the complications of diabetes.

"For the most part I'm able to do everything I could before the diagnosis just with a few alterations. I remind myself it's made me a lot more responsible and independent. I've also learned it's better to embrace it rather than trying to hide it from people."

ns Diabetics

Thomas Edison - Scientist

Ernest Hemingway - Author

Larry King - Talk Show Host

George Lucas - Director and Producer

Elvis Presley - Singer

Jackie Robinson - Baseball Player

Sugar Ray Robinson - Boxer

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Northwest softball “adopts” team at State tourney

Laura Springer

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In early October a tornado had devastated the town of Wayne, NE. Homes and businesses were destroyed, as well as local softball fields, where the Wayne high school team played their home games and district tournament. Despite this setback, they won their district on a different field, qualifying them for the State tournament.

Wayne was staying at a hotel in Grand Island for the duration of the tournament. They needed a field to practice on the night before the first game, so they asked to use Northwest's fields. Little did either team know that this would spark an unforgettable relationship.

The Northwest softball team's state motto was “GET PUMPED,” which happened to be the first words the Wayne softball team heard walking up to the Northwest practice fields. Both teams shared a laugh at the time, then went their separate ways.

The next day Northwest took a tough loss to Blair, then bounced back and beat Beatrice 13-10 after a nail-biting game. As the team was leaving the dugout, Wayne was there, cheering and yelling “Get pumped!”, just as excited



Members of Northwest's & Wayne's softball teams show off the State

Runner-up trophy. Photo Credit: Hannah Rathke

about the game as Northwest fans.

The second day of State, Northwest was eliminated, but the majority of the team stuck around to watch Wayne play. Wayne won, but since they were in the loser's bracket they still had two games to go that day. The Northwest girls stayed until the final out was called. The girls cheered and cheered, talking with the Wayne fans as if they were all long-time friends. After two close games and several extra innings, it was time to call it a night. The Vikings left with the promise to return at 11am the next morning for semi finals.

The Vikings arrived for the game and began cheering before they were even in their seats. Wayne started off

with a 6-0 lead, but quickly found themselves behind. It didn't look good at the top of the 6th, Wayne being the visiting team. This is when the Vikings picked things up by cheering. A single up the middle started a spark on the field and in the stands. Wayne came back to tie things up and went into extra innings. At the top of the 8th, one run down, two outs, and no one on base, the game appeared over. Then the senior first baseman was up to bat. Northwest seniors who didn't get a homerun this year were all hoping that she would hit one for them. And she did. Wayne used this to fuel another win, securing a spot in the State Championship.

Wayne came up short and had to settle for second place, but no one was prouder of them than Northwest.

“I was so proud of them for never giving up and always fighting,” senior first baseman Kelly Hostler said.

As Wayne received their medals, all the Viking seniors turned to each other with tears in their eyes. They had not reached their goal, but they couldn't be prouder of Wayne for achieving what they had. Senior Hannah Rathke, “They have been through a lot, so I was glad we could cheer them on and be a part of their success.”

Parental Supervision Required

Get an inside look on students who have to face their parents everyday, whether they want to or not. Mrs. McNeel and her daughter, sophomore MacKenzie McNeel, talk about their family's journey with breast cancer.

Mrs. McNeel

Mackenzie McNeel

How has your daughter supported you?

She went to the surgery with me and has been there every step of the way.

How has this changed your relationship?

We have always been close, but now there is this realization that I might be taken away.

What keeps you motivated when times get tough?

There's somebody worse off than me. There is a reason [for this], even if I don't know why yet. I'm fortunate for the support from the staff, family, and friends.



How does your mom inspire you?

She inspires other people and she is the strongest person I know.

How has this affected you?

People always say that they're sorry, but they don't really know because they're not in her position.

cause they're not in her position.

How has this changed your relationship with your mom?

I feel like it made us stronger because she knows she can talk to me and I know that I can talk to her about anything.

Angelica Carlini

ADS MANAGER

Students gain life experience and perspective through mission trips

Bibiana Luevano

STAFF WRITER

Not a day goes by where a single mother has not struggled to earn an extra dollar, or a determined man has sacrificed his own comforts and well being to provide for his family. There are people that live in this with so few for possessions and not enough to survive. Thankfully, there are those who gladly give up their time and attention to help those in need.

A handful of students have ventured out into different states in order to spend a full week assisting those in need. Senior Jordan Fay was one such student.

“Sometimes I'm just ready to get back [home] and other times I just want to stay and hang out with people I've met.”

He initially became involved in the YNIA (Young Neighbors in Action) with the help of Rita Hemmer, the

Youth Director at Saint Leo's Catholic Church.

Over the course of three years, he has managed to make a single week-long trip down to Gallop, New Mexico; Greenbay, Wisconsin; and Saint Louis, Missouri during the summer months. The purpose of these trips were to help communities that were struggling with poverty or environmental issues.

“Yeah, we make a pretty good impact,” Fay said. Yet, it is not all hard work and labor. These trips allow for a person to grow close with those they work with and create bonds with the new people they meet. Recalling the events of the previous trip, Fay continued.

“The kids last year...When we got done, we bonded with them so much that they were crying when we left.”

Junior Caiti Lilienthal embarked on her first week-long journey to St. Louis,

Missouri this past summer. An attendant to the Resurrection Church, Lilienthal had just become involved with the YNIA program.

“I enjoyed it very much, it was honestly the highlight of my summer,” Lilienthal stated. The purpose of her group's trip was to help reconstruct a church building that was located in the bad area of the neighborhood. Lilienthal and her group's good deeds not only had an impact on the community, but also served to have an impact in her life.

“While I was there I took a step back from reality and realized even on my bad days, my life is great.” Lilienthal stated. Having experienced life outside of her own home and to help those that needed it, she agrees that this is something that anyone should do.

“I recommend going on a mission trip. You don't just change [other peoples] lives, they change yours.”

For more Mission Trip stories and extra *Viking Saga* Content, visit our website at nwwikingsaga.wordpress.com

Ask Bon Bon <3

Q: Why do girls start drama?
-Girl Probs

A: A girl's heart is a sea full of secrets! Usually drama is started because she's being deprived of attention. Sometimes girls don't even know they're starting it. Drama has become an instinct to not just girls, but boys, too.

Q: Why are guys so immature?
-Boys Boys Boys

A: The male's frontal cortex doesn't develop as fast as a girl's does. Guys like that kind of attention; they want to be known as the funny one, they want to be noticed by maybe a girl or other boys.

Q: I like this girl, and I know she likes me back, but she has a boyfriend she really likes too, what do I do? (Plus she goes to a different school)

-The Love Triangle

A: You need to go up to her and tell her straight up that this is not a game. Tell her that you're willing to give her your heart, and she needs to decide who she wants because we live in a world where we can't have both.

Q: My senioritis is in full mode: how do I overcome it and get things done?

-Lazy

A: Buy yourself a planner, that way you can plan

ahead of time and get more things done. You'll feel less stressed, and life will feel a lot easier.

Q: My friend always texts and drives. I've tried to tell her that there are serious consequences of it. How do I tell her that I just want her to be safe?
-Unsafe Driving

A: There are many ways you could tell her. In fact, you could even show her: go online; there are videos that show what can happen if one were to text and drive. Let her know how scared you, feel, and how you wouldn't want to wake up one day and find out that your best friend died in a car accident.

Q: My best friend is using my Facebook for Buy Sell Trade GI, and I want her to get off of it, because I don't trust her.

-Get off my Facebook, Beth

A: What I would do is kindly walk up to your friend and tell her that she has a problem, and that she is not alone. But until then, get off her Facebook, Beth.

Love you all,

Bon Bon

Christmas Eve comes early this year for Arkham Origins players

Kyler Janecsek

STAFF CRITIC

It feels like I've been waiting for this moment for months now: the day I can finally sit down to write my thoughts on what has easily been the most anticipated game of the year for me. Since pre-ordering two months ago, I've been anxiously awaiting the game, whilst wondering if it would uphold the same standard we've come to expect. Well October 25 has finally passed, so tear down those Halloween decorations and throw on a Batman mask; *Arkham Origins* has finally arrived.

Now unlike *Arkham Asylum* and *Arkham City*, *Origins* was developed by a new studio, so the question is this- does it do the last two games justice, and is it as good? Even better, perhaps?

Well to start with, we'll compare what's the same: so, most of it. Combat is almost exactly the same perfect formula we've come to expect from the *Arkham* games. You attack with one button, counter with another, and dodge some things sometimes. It's simple, and yet can offer extremely rewarding challenges at times. Then, there's traveling. Done in almost exactly the same way as *City*, only now there's a fast travel system. You don't need to use it though, I pretty much never did. So as far as controls go, they're the same as before, and it was already perfect before. So that's one point in the "yes" column.

Now let's talk about the story. Not too much of course, because we wouldn't want to spoil anything, but it's an important part of the game itself. Crime lord Black Mask has set a bounty on our hero's head- one cold, ominous Christmas Eve night to kill the Bat. Eight of the world's top bounty hunters are under contract to eliminate him, and every single one is an even match for the man dressed like a bat. Or at least, the game would have you believe, but more on that in a minute. The story is executed extremely well, with twists that- as angry as some make me- make it quite the climactic and emotional roller

coaster.

I mentioned the assassins briefly before, however, and this is something I want to rant about. The game promises eight hectic, frantic, suspenseful encounters with the world's top killers, and delivers maybe half this. Not all of the assassins even appear in the game's main story, and some of the ones that do are just downright pathetic. There are a few really hard, well defined moments of the game, like the Deathstroke boss fight, but they're gone as soon as they come. One boss, and I'm not even joking, goes down in one swift punch to the jaw. As hilarious as this is at the time, it's not long before you realize that this is just more content that you're missing out on. More so, we were promised that every boss fight would make use of one of Batman's many skills, and take it to the extreme. Maybe one boss fight actually did this, and that was the Deathstroke fight. It really represents what the rest of the game should have done.

If I had to choose the strongest point of the game, it would be characterization. From Batman's relationship with Alfred to the Joker and Bane's rivalry, character relationships and qualities really shine in the story mode of this game. The new voice actors really go a long way to emphasize this, with Batman and Joker both taking on new actors. Both do an incredible job, though, Joker deserving special mention. All of the characters, though, bring something special into the game.

This is the moment I've been dreading, and anticipating. The final verdict. I'll jump right into it. Is *Origins* amazing? Yes. Is it as good as *Asylum* and *City* were? No. Technical issues, the short length of the story, and the disappointment factor take it just below the standard were used to, despite all of the amazing parts. Still, it was a great effort by a new company, and I applaud them. This is almost everything I had hoped it would be, and you know what? That's good enough... mostly.

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